

Energize Indiana Update

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2003

The News in Brief... Gov. Kernan hosts final Energize Indiana forum in Gary

Gov. Joe Kernan talked economic development in Northwest Indiana with about 200 business, education and community leaders at Wednesday's Energize Indiana forum.

Gary's forum was the final stop on this summer's Energize Indiana tour. Gov. Kernan, along with five state agency directors (see picture below), visited all 12 commerce regions in 16 weeks. Gov. O'Bannon attended the first nine forums before taking ill.

Gov. Kernan carried on Gov. O'Bannon's metaphor about Energize Indiana representing the "topping out" of a building project. Gov. O'Bannon told each crowd that EI built upon the foundation laid with public school standards and accountability, the formation of the community college system and the progressive restructuring of Indiana's tax system.



Gov. Kernan talks with State Rep. Vernon Smith of Gary after the Energize Indiana forum held at the [Genesis Convention Center](#).



Economic profile: Department of Commerce Region 1

Jasper, Lake, Newton and Porter counties

Success story: Valpo U is cutting-edge partner in science

Before heading to Gary Wednesday, Gov. Kernan attended the opening of the Muncie-based [Center for Computational Nanoscience](#). The center, made possible through a \$1.5 million grant from the [21st Century Fund](#), will make Indiana a leader in this emerging field of science – with potential applications in medicine, manufacturing and information technology. Valparaiso University is a partner in this project with Ball State, Purdue, Notre Dame and Ohio University.



Gov. Kernan with [Region 1 commerce staff](#): Director John Kennedy, Project Manager Cynthia Pruitt and Administrative Coordinator Mollie Frieson.



Gov. Kernan with the five speakers of the EI tour: from left, Tony Armstrong, 21st Century Fund; Will Friedman, Ports of Indiana; Al Degner, Workforce Development; Gov. Kernan; Wendy Dant-Chesser, Rural Development; Tim Monger, Commerce.

For more about Energize Indiana:

IN Department of Commerce
(317) 232-8800, www.indianacommerce.com

IN Department of Workforce Development
(317) 233-5514, www.workforce.IN.gov

Rural development
(317) 232-8876, www.IN.gov/irdc or www.IN.gov/oca

The Ports of Indiana
(317) 232-9200, www.portsofindiana.com

The 21st Century Research and Technology Fund
(317) 234-1625, www.21fund.org

[Click here to take the EI survey!](#)